

Secretary of Defense under Secretary William Perry.

"John Deutch is a sound and sophisticated adviser whose expertise on military technology and policy has served the Department of Defense well in his tenure as Under Secretary of Defense," the President said. "Secretary Perry and I will rely heavily on his knowledge, imagination, and judgment as we work to maintain the strongest military in the world at a time of budgetary constraints."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Nomination for Ambassador to Kuwait

February 24, 1994

The President today announced his intention to nominate Ryan Clark Crocker, a career member of the Foreign Service and formerly Director of the Iraq-Kuwait Task Force, to be Ambassador to Kuwait.

"Ryan Clark Crocker has led a distinguished career in the foreign service and has a keen understanding of the issues facing Kuwait and the rest of the Middle East," the President said. "He is well-qualified to serve as our country's Ambassador to Kuwait, and I am pleased he has agreed to accept this new assignment."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Nomination for Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

February 24, 1994

The President today announced his intention to nominate Nelba R. Chavez, of San Francisco, as Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) in the Department of Health and Human Services.

"Dr. Chavez' broad range of experiences in the areas of mental health and substance abuse will provide valuable perspective in addressing these problems," the President said. "Her dedication to these issues will be a great benefit in her new position."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

The President's News Conference

February 25, 1994

Hebron Massacre

The President. Good morning. I want to speak briefly about events in the Middle East and in Russia.

Early this morning, Palestinian Muslim worshipers at prayer in the Mosque of Abraham in Hebron were brutally gunned down by a lone Israeli settler. It can be no coincidence that the murderer struck during the holy month of Ramadan and chose a site sacred to Muslims and to Jews. His likely purpose was to ruin the historic reconciliation now underway between the Palestinians and the Israelis.

On behalf of the American people I condemn this crime in the strongest possible terms. I am outraged and saddened that such a gross act of murder could be perpetrated. And I extend my deepest sympathies to the families of those who have been killed and wounded.

I also call on all the parties to exercise maximum restraint in what we all understand is a terribly emotional situation. Extremists on both sides are determined to drag Arabs and Israelis back into the darkness of unending conflict and bloodshed. We must prevent them from extinguishing the hopes and the visions and the aspirations of ordinary people for a life of peaceful existence.

The answer now is to redouble our efforts to conclude the talks between Israel and the PLO and begin the implementation of the agreement they have made as rapidly as possible. Accordingly, this morning I asked the Secretary of State to contact Prime Minister Rabin and Chairman Arafat and to invite them to send all their negotiators involved in the Israel-PLO talks to Washington as soon as possible and to stay here in continuous session until their work is completed. They have both agreed to do that.

Our purpose is to accelerate the negotiations on the Declaration of Principles and to try to bring them to a successful conclusion in the shortest possible time. Those negotiations have already made considerable